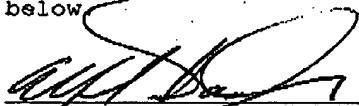


Docket No.: A-2465

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper for Application No. 09/656,333 is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


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OFFICIALBefore the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Applicant : Siegfried Kurtzer
Applic. No. : 09/656,333
Filed : September 6, 2000
Title : Printing Machines with Equilibrium or
Equalization of Moments or Torques
Examiner : Ren Luo Yan - Art Unit: 2854
Customer No.: 24131

REPLY BRIEF

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

This is a Reply Brief responding to the Examiner's Answer
mailed December 16, 2003.

Arguments:

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*:

the second sheet transport cylinder having a position defined for accepting a sheet to be printed from the first sheet transport cylinder and a position defined for surrendering the printed sheet and, on a path from the surrender position to the acceptance position, the second sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a movement stressing the spring element assigned thereto and a movement relieving the stress, while said first sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a closing movement relieving the stress on the spring element assigned thereto and a closing movement stressing the spring element.

Furthermore, the present invention provides that torques produced by the closing of the gripper 5 of the first transport cylinder by stressing and stress relief, according to construction, of spring elements, are compensated for by the spring elements 6.1-6.4 of the second transport cylinder 1, which are either relieved of stress or stressed (by the

additional closing or opening of the grippers) while traveling between the surrender position 1,3 and the acceptance position 2,1.

This is absolutely not the case in Schaede.

Schaede discloses that when the front edge of the sheet reaches the transfer cylinder (30) the grippers (16 and 18), which must be considered the second grippers (Examiners Answer page 3, paragraph 3), of the transfer cylinder (4) hand the sheet to the grippers of the transfer cylinder (30) in the usual way (column 4, lines 57-60). This position is the surrender position (4, 30) of the transport cylinder (4). The grippers (16 and 18) must be open at the surrender position (4, 30) to allow the sheet to be surrendered to the transfer cylinder (30). A sheet is accepted by the transfer cylinder (4) from the impression cylinder (2) at the acceptance position (2, 4) by the suction strips (13 and 14) of the transfer cylinder (4). The grippers (16 and 18) do not close until well after the acceptance position (2, 4) (approximately 90° past the acceptance position). Therefore, the grippers (16 and 18) of Schaede do not execute any movement stressing a spring element assigned thereto or relieving the stress between the surrender position (4, 30) and the acceptance position (2, 4).

The reference does not show a second sheet transport cylinder having a position defined for accepting a sheet to be printed from the first sheet transport cylinder and a position defined for surrendering the printed sheet and, on a path from the surrender position to the acceptance position, the second sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a movement stressing the spring element assigned thereto and a movement relieving the stress, while the first sheet gripper being actuatable for executing one of a closing movement relieving the stress on the spring element assigned thereto and a closing movement stressing the spring element, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Schaede discloses that the grippers (16 and 18), which must be considered the second grippers (Examiners Answer page 3, paragraph 3), of the transfer cylinder (4) do not execute any movement stressing a spring element assigned thereto or relieving the stress between the surrender position (4, 30) and the acceptance position (2, 4). This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which on a path from the surrender position to the acceptance position, the second sheet gripper is actuatable for executing one of a movement stressing the spring element.

As can be seen from the detailed comments set forth above, the Examiner's assertion on Page 6, second paragraph that "In that regard, the sheet grippers of Schaede raise to their opening

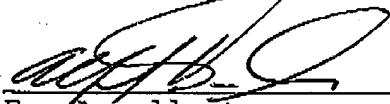
position upon stressing the spring element on a path from a surrender position to an acceptance position as taught by Schaede satisfy the requirement" is absolutely not correct. Schaede discloses that the grippers (16 and 18) are only in an open position on the path from the surrender position to the acceptance position. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the Examiner's comments on the sheet grippers of Schaede should be disregarded.

On page 6, of the answer, the Examiner stated: "Since the grippers of Schaede do raise to the opening position upon stressing the spring element on a path from a surrender position to an acceptance position as apparent [sic] agreed to by the appellant, . . ." Appellant does not understand this remark. It is possible that the Examiner is stating that Appellant agrees to the Examiner's position as to the Schaede grippers. Such a characterization, however, is entirely incorrect and is an improper mischaracterization of Appellant's comments (which included the statement: "The grippers of Schaede only do one thing on a path from a surrender position to an acceptance position, they are in their opening position upon stressing the spring element".) As can be seen from the detailed comments set forth above, the Appellant does not agree to the Examiner's assertion. More specifically, the grippers of Schaede do not execute any movement on a path from a surrender position to the acceptance

position, i.e., the grippers are only in an open position on the path from the surrender position to the acceptance position. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the Examiner's comments on Appellant's actual position should be disregarded.

Based on the above given arguments the honorable Board is therefore respectfully urged to reverse the final rejection of the Primary Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



For Appellant

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